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EVELYN HELM

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No. 18

Reorganization Update

The implementation of the Secretary's reorganization is proceeding quickly and smoothly. The acting administrators for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS), Extension Service (ES), and the acting director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL)--Terry Kinney, Walter Thomas, Mary Nell Greenwood and Richard Farley--have been meeting to work out orderly procedures and keep each other fully informed.

The ARS research base has been expanded to include the human nutrition research functions of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, the Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center, the Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine, the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, and the Western Human Nutrition Research Center. The Consumer Nutrition Center, the Dietary Guidance and Nutrition Education Research Staff, and the Food and Nutrition Information Center are now a part of a new agency--the Human Nutrition Information Service. This new agency has been placed under the direction of Mary Jarratt, Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services.

While the organization structure has changed, the Secretary has emphasized his commitment to the coordination of science and education programs as mandated by the 1977 farm bill and reaffirmed in the upcoming 1981 farm bill. Every effort will be made to continue to foster close cooperation and coordination among the science and education agencies and between them and their partners in the states and in the private sector.

The science and education agencies will continue to provide support to meet the needs of USDA action and regulatory agencies.

The former Office of Higher Education is now the Higher Education staff unit, headed by Lark Carter, who reports to the director of science and education.



The functions of the former Joint Planning and Evaluation Staff have been delegated to the science and education agencies and a small Program Coordination Staff will provide direct support to the Director of Science and Education regarding USDA's policies, priorities, and programs in research, extension and higher education. This staff, headed by Ernest Corley, will work closely with the administrators and staffs of the science and education agencies as well as with other USDA assistant secretaries and administrators involved with the food and agricultural sciences.

John Stovall has been named executive director of a staff to serve the Joint Council and the Users Advisory Board, as provided for in Title XIV of the farm bill.

An Administrative Management Unit will provide personnel, administrative, budget and financial support to all science and education agencies.

Some fine tuning remains to be done but given the dedication of the scientists and educators and support personnel across the country who make up the agencies we are responsible for, I do not believe we will miss a beat in the orderly transfer and reconfiguration of functions. I see many positive outcomes stemming from the Secretary's decisions and support them fully.

#### Status of the Budget

For the past few months, we have been heavily involved in putting together our budget proposals for FY 1983, to be submitted to the Department on July 10. I believe that our budget submission is a true statement of the needs and priorities of this Nation's food and agricultural science and education community. This has been accomplished primarily through our initiatives to seek counsel with other USDA agencies and Federal Departments; input from our inhouse staff; and the good assistance extended to us by our State cooperators. On several occasions during our FY 1983 budget-building exercise, we have received invaluable input from Don Crossan of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy; Tom King of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy; Ray Miller of the Committee of Administrative Heads of Agriculture; Ken Reisch of the Resident Instruction Committee on Organization and Policy; Dale Stansbury of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges; T. J. Stanley of the Association of American University Agricultural Administrators; and Mark Buchanan and Tom Ronningen, directors-at-large for the Western Region and Northeastern Region State Experiment Stations, respectively. Needless to say, we are very grateful to these individuals for taking time to help us develop a truly integrated and cooperative FY 1983 budget.

The next stage of the FY 1983 budget process will be a hearing before Deputy Secretary Richard Lyng scheduled for August 6. Thereafter, the process is as follows:



- . A departmental budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget on September 15;
- . An executive budget submission to the Congress sometime in January 1982; and
- . Congressional Committee hearings sometime in the Spring of 1982.

With regard to the FY 1982 budget presently in Congress, the House Appropriations Committee plans to complete action on the budget shortly after the Congress returns on July 8. The Senate Appropriations Committee indicates the budget is also high on their agenda after the recess. Unlike last year, it now appears that we may have a 1982 authorized budget before the fiscal year begins on October 1.

While I am on this subject, let me also touch on the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, passed by both the House and Senate recently with final action also expected after the recess. Specifically, this bill is required by the Congressional budget within established economic targets. With the exception of some uncertainty as to the status of the Bankhead-Jones funds, our programs were not affected by either the House or the Senate bills. In fact, the House version of the bill specifically exempts any cuts in our programs for 1982 while establishing a 9.2 percent across the board reduction in most USDA program and administrative activities.

#### Genetic Engineering Breakthroughs

Two major advances in genetic engineering were announced this past month by Secretary John R. Block.

On June 18 the Secretary reported the development of a genetically engineered vaccine effective against foot-and-mouth disease, one of the most serious diseases of animals throughout the world. This achievement represents the first production through gene splicing of an effective vaccine against any disease in animals or humans.

The work was done under a cooperative agreement with ARS and Genentech, Inc., a San Francisco-based research firm.

Jerry Callis, director of the ARS Plum Island Animal Disease Center and Howard L. Bachrach, formerly chief scientist biochemical and biophysical research, Plum Island, now retired, described the research in detail for members of the media at a full-house press briefing in Washington the day following the Secretary's announcement. The story received prominent attention by major newspapers across the country and on network newscasts.

Then on June 29, the Secretary announced the development of a technology for moving genes from one plant to another. Biochemists John D. Kemp, ARS, and Timothy C. Hall, University of Wisconsin-Madison, headed a team of researchers who succeeded in transferring a gene that directs the production of a major protein from its native location in a French bean seed into the foreign environment of a sunflower cell. The scientists have dubbed the new plant tissue "sunbean."



This accomplishment marks a major step toward the day when scientists will be able to increase the nutritive value of plants, to make plants resistant to disease and environmental stresses and to make them capable of fixing nitrogen from the air. Again, the media recognized the significance of this achievement with major coverage.

Agricultural researchers are obviously at center stage in the pursuit of scientific accomplishments that can produce unparalleled benefits not only for this country but for people throughout the world.

George A. Keyworth II, director-designate, Office of Science and Technology Policy, at a press briefing before the American Association for the Advancement of Science 6th annual R&D Colloquium June 25, pointed out that basic genetic research is an area that can expect major breakthroughs and that one of the most important science priorities is to re-allocate federal dollars to basic research likely to produce breakthroughs. During this talk Dr. Keyworth specifically referred to this country's historic interest and success in agricultural sciences and technology. "This has been an investment of incredible pay-off. However, we must continue to meet ever changing conditions and demands. In today's harvests we are reaping the successes of scientific and technological advances made many years ago."

#### BARD Update, Meeting in Egypt

I recently attended meetings in both Israel and Egypt.

In Israel, I took part in the Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) Board of Directors meeting to award \$7.2 million in research grants to researchers in the United States and Israel. This money represents 10 months interest on the \$80 million endowment established by both countries in November 1978 to produce this unique cooperative endeavor.

BARD is currently supporting research in the areas of soil and water conservation, management and utilization; crop and plant improvement; crop protection; improvement of animal production technology, including aquaculture and veterinary medicine; recycling of wastes to support agricultural production; intensive crop production; agricultural engineering; post-harvest sciences; and agricultural economics.

Research is done on a cooperative basis between U.S. and Israeli laboratories and funding is provided directly to the cooperating laboratories on the basis of the approved plan of work. If a scientist has a proposal but does not have a counterpart cooperator, BARD will assist in establishing a contact.

Proposals should be submitted both to BARD, Agricultural Research Service, Room 23, Building 005, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. 20705, and BARD, P.O. Box 6, Bet Dagan, Israel. Further information can be obtained by writing BARD at the Beltsville address.



In Egypt, I met with the minister of agriculture to discuss cooperative research efforts between the United States, Egypt and Israel. Egypt is interested in conducting research on plant breeding, salinity control and agriculture on arid lands. This research would depend on funding from the Agency for International Development.

#### ARS, Extension Service Lectures

The 1981 lecture series will begin with the 13th W.O. Atwater Memorial Lecture on Aug. 20, to be presented by Joaquin Cravioto, an internationally-known researcher in child nutrition.

Dr. Cravioto, professor of pediatrics and scientific director of the National Institutes for Children's Health Sciences and Technology, Mexico City, will speak on "Nutrition, Stimulation, Mental Development and Learning," at the XII International Congress of Nutrition in San Diego, Calif. The lectureship honors Wilbur O. Atwater (1844-1907), USDA's first chief of nutrition investigations and highlights the importance of science in furthering human progress.

An annual lectureship to commemorate the life and work of Sterling B. Hendricks (1902-1981) has also been established. Dr. Hendricks' 40 years of distinguished research brought about a better understanding of the behavior of plants growing in soils of different structure and nutrient content and the mechanisms involved in the response of plants to their environment. Norman Borlaug, Nobel Prize laureate in Peace and a pioneering researcher of wheat, will present the first Sterling Hendricks lecture on Sept. 27 at the American Chemical Society Congress in New York City.

John L. Creech, recently retired director of the National Arboretum and world leader in the field of plant explorations, will deliver the 14th B. Y. Morrison Memorial Lecture on Sept. 27 at the American Horticultural Society Congress in Boston. This lecture honors B. Y. Morrison (1891-1966), the first director of the National Arboretum.

The second Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture will be given before the Division of Agriculture of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). The lecture will be presented Nov. 9 at the annual meeting of NASULGC. Seaman A. Knapp (1833-1911), is known as the "father of the extension system."

#### International Grassland Congress Highlights

Delegates from over 50 foreign countries and nearly every state attended the XIV International Grassland Congress last month in Lexington, Ky. This was the first time the Congress, held every four years, had been hosted by the United States in over 20 years.

This year's conference, with over 1,200 persons in attendance, focused on major issues that will affect the future of grassland agriculture--high energy costs, water shortages, increased demand for grass-fed meat, and the transfer of new technology into the hands of producers.



A premiere showing of the film, "From Hopeful Greenstuff Woven," produced by the Science and Education information staff, highlighted grass breeding accomplishments and emphasized the teamwork necessary to carry out complex research.

The 1985 Congress will be held in Kyoto, Japan.

U.S., Mexico, Guatemala Medfly Meeting

Terry Kinney, acting ARS administrator will accompany C. W. McMillan, USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Transportation Services, and several representatives of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to a meeting with officials from Mexico and Guatemala July 13-14 in Tapachula, Mexico. The group will discuss the medfly eradication program, screwworm, and other areas of concern to the participating countries and will inspect medfly rearing facilities in Metapa, Mexico.

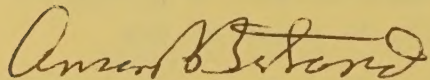
Western Human Nutrition Research Center Symposium

The Western Human Nutrition Research Center will present an inaugural symposium August 13-14, focusing on research to further the understanding of food intervention programs, nutritional requirements, and the research required.

The symposium is being held in cooperation with the University of California.

The Center's research program is aimed at identifying the factors resulting in malnutrition, developing reliable, efficient and inexpensive methods for defining nutritional status; determining nutritional requirements; and developing nutritional criteria for design and evaluation of intervention programs.

Howerde B. Sauberlich, research leader, Western Human Nutrition Research Center, Letterman Army Institute of Research, Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif. 94129, is coordinating the symposium.



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